

## ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus are disclosed which allow for increased disk drive head read and write element widths and tolerances. The method and apparatus also allows for track widths to be reduced. In one embodiment, the head is skewed to have a large skew angle relative to a plurality of concentric data tracks contained on a surface of magnetic media within the disk drive. The skew angle results in an effective width of the read and write elements being reduced. Based on this reduction in effective width, the width or tolerance of the read and write elements may be increased. Furthermore, the width of the plurality of data tracks may be reduced instead of, or in addition to, the increase in read and write element width or tolerance.